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N. GOODSELL, EDITOR.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

We are indebted to J P. BEEKMAN, Esq. of Kinderhook, for a copy of the annexed Circular, which we take pleasure in giving a place in our columns, as it may with equal propriety be addressed to the farmers of almost every county in the state:

To the Farmers of Columbia County.

Last winter, a number of gentlemen, from about one half the counties in this state, met at Albany, and formed themselves into a State Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

They adopted a Constitution, in which they specially recognize the principle that County Societies, for the promotion of the objects they have in view, will be their most efficient aids. For the purpose of calling the attention of all those interested to the importance and necessity of forming societies in every county in this state, they appointed a general committee in each county, whose number was equal to their members of Assembly, and whose special duty it was made to endeavor to organize a society in the several counties for which they were named. We, the undersigned, were appointed that committee for the county of Columbia.

In compliance with the duty which thus devolves upon us, under the directions of the State Society, we would now call the attention of our farmers to this most interesting subject, and urge them to the formation of an Auxiliary County Society. We trust it is not expected that we should go into an elaborate argument to show the advantages that are to result to us from this organization. It is enough that it is considered one of the means of improvement, and as such we commend it to your favorable notice. We will observe, that the wealth of our county consists in her lands, her stock, her hydraulic privileges, the improvements upon them, and the aid derived to all these from her manufactures and mechanics. Surely then we ought to draw upon the intelligence of all that engage in these different pursuits, to give increased value to these peculiar advantages. In the almost unaided and unsystematic manner in which agriculture has been conducted for the last twenty years, still it has made some advancement; and who knows what impulse it may have received from the society that was formerly in existence here? Latterly, however, the efforts of our farmers have been single handed; and if, under many discouragements, they have still done something towards the advancement of their art, an united effort promises to do much more. Shall we make that effort? for no farmer among us will pretend that his farm is incapable of farther improvement. If there is any such, we would ask him—Is your house built in the best, most accommodating, and cheapest manner for your means; and that, not only for yourself, but for posterity? Have your quarries of stone and groves of timber contributed their just proportions towards it, without a waste of either? Are your barns and yards exactly such as they should be, safely to house your produce, and carefully confine your stock? Are your fences made in the right manner, and of the best materials, both for durability and cheapness? Can no farther improvements be made in all that gives value to your stock of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs? Are they all kept and fatted in the best and cheapest possible manner? Do you raise as much wheat, corn, rye, oats, &c., per acre, and of the best quality too, as your land is capable of producing? Are your agricultural implements all shaped after the best models, made of the best materials, and procured at the cheapest rates? Are your roads, bridges, and public improvements, (for remember farmers have the charge of all these,) brought to all the perfection that art can give them? To these questions, and many others, our own observation, as farmers, tells us we must answer in the negative. How often, in the most trifling events in life, do we see the necessity of giving and asking advice! And when interests so momentous may be promoted by, or hazarded for the want of it, surely no one will have the hardihood to say, there is not safety in council. In that case, the intelligence and observation of one becomes the intelligence and observation of all. In the different professions, too, of life, we all see and feel the benefits that result from education, and the adoption of a well regulated system. Heretofore, the majority of our farmers have not availed themselves of this plain dictate of good sense; and while, on the one hand, you have seen gentlemen farmers, who have plenty of loose theory, and not enough of practical knowledge, expend immense sums in imaginary improvements, without an adequate reward; on the other hand, how many farmers do you see, who, for want of system and information, impoverish their land—lessen its value by diminished crops, so that ultimately they sink into ruin.

In England there is more said, written and read, on the subject of agriculture, than in any other country in Europe. The consequence is, that they have a well regulated system, and the immense benefits derived from it may be seen from the fact, that they raise double and triple the quantity of grain from the acre that we do. In that we must try to imitate her example; for, believe us, the time will soon come, when we will have to compete with her, and all Europe too, in all their agricultural productions. Let us endeavor to do it successfully; for our climate is better—our soil may be made as productive—our farmers ought to be as industrious—we have all the means and appliances. It is only to understand how cause produces effect, that is, the operation of simple principles upon practical farming, carefully conducted and thoroughly understood, and we shall be able to make our county one of the best cultivated, and, what always follows, one of the wealthiest in the state.

Prompted by these considerations, we propose a meeting in Hudson, on Saturday the 23d of February inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the house of Leonard B. Flagler, of all who take an interest either in Agriculture, Horticulture, Manufactures, or the Mechanic Arts, for the purpose of forming a Society in the county of Columbia, for the promotion of all these objects.

WM. K. WILSON, *of Clermont*,
WM. B. LUDLOW, *of Claverack*,
J. P. BEEKMAN, *of Kinderhook*.

February 9, 1833.

HOT BEDS.

During this month, persons fond of gardening for amusement, or those who intend rearing early vegetables for the market, should collect manures for making hot beds. This should consist mostly of manure from the horse-stables, including all straw and litter made use of. When the manure is collected in the early part of February, it is well to lay it in small heaps, that the fermentation may commence gradually, where it should remain until near the close of the month, when it may be put into one large heap, mixing it evenly, by which the fermentation will become general, and the whole pile prepared for the bed. When the manure is placed in the bed without a previous preparation, there is danger that the fermentation will be so rapid as to destroy the plants after they have come up. In this latitude, from the middle of March to the first of April is soon enough to plant seeds upon a hot bed. If planted too soon, they become large, and are apt to be *drawn*, as the gardeners say, that is, too long and slender. Our climate does not allow planting out from the hot bed until the first week in May; and plants, if well managed, in four weeks from the time of sowing, will have arrived at a sufficent size for that purpose. There are many plants which are considered so hardy and common that they are seldom sown upon hot beds, nevertheless they may be sown to great advantage. Among those, onions and turnep rooted beets should never be omitted. An ounce of onion seed may be sown on a corner of one foot square, and by the first of May will have grown tops as thick as a wheat straw, when they may be transplanted into beds, or set on borders, where they will soon take root, and be found about as early as those sown in September previous, having this advantage over them—that they will not run up to seed as some of those will which were sown in the fall.

Turnep rooted beets are raised mostly for early use, as they do not produce as many bushels from the same ground as the long blood beet, or the yellow French sugar beet, and are inferior to them in flavor; but when raised early are a very great addition to the table. As they root mostly upon the surface, or the valuable part of the beet grows there, if the tap root is broken in the process of transplanting, it does no injury.

Early Asparagus.—The editor of the Albany Evening Journal has already seen some specimens of Asparagus, (as green and nutricious as can be produced in its season,) from the Garden of Alderman Stephen Van Rensselaer, Jr.

SEED ONIONS.

One of our subscribers makes inquiries about seed onions, or raising onion seed.

For raising onion seed, select ground that is not too dry and sandy, as onions thrive best in a moderately damp and strong soil; let the soil be well prepared by manuring and deep ploughing, laying it out into beds about three and a half or four feet wide. Into these beds, about the last of October, or fore part of November, let the onions intended for seed be placed, in drills five or six inches deep, and from eight to twelve inches from each other either way. For planting, select the best shaped onions of the variety wished; let them be set in the drills as when growing, and covered with fine earth. Onions planted in the fall are found to produce better than when planted in the spring; and when the ground is kept in good order, they will produce as well the second year as the first, after which time they are found to suffer. In April the leaves will have appeared above the ground, when they should be carefully hoed, and the ground kept light and clear of weeds, until the seed stalk shoots up. As soon as this happens, there should be a sufficent number of stakes driven into the earth near the outside rows, to which cords or lath may be fastened, to support the seed stalks, which would otherwise be broken by the wind. Whether cords or lath are used, there should be many cross supports as well as those running lengthwise of the beds.

After the seeds have become ripe, the heads should be cut off and laid by carefully until dry, when they should be threshed, and the seeds separated from the chaff.

YELLOWS IN PEACHES.

The New-York Farmer for February has an article under the head of "*Retrospective Criticism on the first series of the New-York Farmer.*" In treating of *the peach* he says: "The late Andrew Parmentier, of Brooklyn, recommends fish, and also bruised sorrel, to be put around the tree, to prevent the injury from worms. Dirt heaped up a few inches has the same effect. *He thinks the yellows is caused by improper transplanting.*" This, we think, is calcutated to mislead young horticulturists. If there is any to which we may apply the term disease among fruit trees, it is to the yellows. It is capable of being communicated from one tree to another, and the consequence is *certain death.* In 1830, we procured a limb from a tree which had the yellows, and set a bud in a seedling tree of two years' growth, which was very thrifty. Our neighbor also set one of the buds from the same cion in a young tree, which, until then, had grown well. Both trees gave evident marks of the yellows the next summer, and both have since died. There is no doubt but the disease may be communicated to young trees by pruning them with a knife with which you had been pruning a diseased tree. We do not pretend to account for the manner in which the virus acts, but the fact that it is capable of being communicated by inoculation has been fully demonstrated. Whether it is or is not capable of being communicated by the pollen when the trees are in flower we are not prepared to say. Every possible pains should be taken to prevent its spreading.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Vigorous exertions are making to procure the repeal of the law of this state abolishing imprisonment for debt, which there is reason to fear will prove successful, unless an immediate effort is made on the part of the friends of the law. When we first noticed the meetings called in several places to take measures to procure the repeal of the law, we did not think there could be any probability of success. We thought that the march of humanity, of civilization, as well as of mind, was onward; and that the law abolishing imprisonment for debt was founded on one of those principles which men seldom like to oppose openly. But for the last three weeks petitions for its repeal have been presented, almost daily, to the Legislature, from every part of the state, while very little has been said or done in opposition to the measure. Mr. WILLIAM GARBUTT, of Wheatland, has favored us with a copy of a letter from the Hon. T. CHILDS, one of the members of Assembly from this county, written in answer to one from Wheatland, in which he expresses the opinion that the vote in the Assembly on the subject will be a close one, and that it is important that those opposed to the repeal of the law should immediately forward remonstrances to the Legislature against the measure. We should have been pleased, had they been received before the matter for our paper of this week was made out, to have published the letters of Messrs. Garbutt and Childs, together with the remonstrance forwarded to us from Wheatland. The remonstrance will be printed, and those who wish to procure copies can have them by applying at this office.

EATON'S MANUAL OF BOTANY.

Notice is given in the Albany papers, that the sixth edition of this work is now in press in that city, and will soon be published. In this edition the genera are arranged under the Linnæan Artificial system, and then repeated under the Natural method, with the improvements of Brown, De Candalle, Lindley and others. The etymologies and accentuation of all the genera are given, and the plants of the northwestern lakes, of the Rocky mountains, &c., are added from Hooker, Douglass, Drummond, Golsie, Richardson and others, and the new species of De Candalle, &c.

GARDEN PLANTS.

There are many tender annual plants, as well as biennial ones, which come up in the fall in gardens, either from seeds scattered from seed plants, or when sown for early maturity, that endure the severity of mid winter, when they are covered with snow, without any material injury, yet often perish in the latter part of winter, after the weather has become comparatively mild. Those who would wish to preserve such plants, should take care to have them covered with straw, litter, or the boughs of evergreens, as soon as the snow is dissolved. Tender perennial plants require the same care, and pinks and carnations will be found to blossom much better when sheltered from frosts during the months of March and April.

☞ The Rev. Mr. Spencer, of Brooklyn, has declined the invitation to the Presidency of Hamilton College, Clinton, (Oneida co.) in this state, to which he was elected last fall.

NEW PAPERS.

We have received three numbers of the "*Kennebec Farmer,*" the publication of which was commenced at Winthrop, Maine, in January, edited by Mr. E. HOLMES, recently one of the editors of the Gardner Standard. It bears the true Farmer stamp; and from the numbers before us, and the ability exhibited by Mr. Holmes, as editor of the Standard, we do not hesitate to commend it warmly to the support of the Farmers in Maine.

The "*Farmer's Chronicle*" was commenced at Springfield, Clark county, Ohio, on the first ult. It is a very neatly printed sheet in the common newspaper form. One half of the paper is to be devoted to Agriculture, under the direction of Mr. M. M. HENKLE, who appears to be well qualified to give his department a popular and useful character. The other part of the paper is devoted to general politics, news, &c.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE,
KEPT AT ROCHESTER, FOR JANUARY, 1833.

	10 A. M.				10 P. M.			
Days.	therm.	barom-eter.	winds.	sky	therm.	barom-eter.	winds	sky
1	52	29,45	w	cl'y r6-10	35	29,80	w	fair
2	38	29,90	s E	fair	42	29,70	s	cloudy
3	54	29,70	s w	cl'y 2-10	54	29,65	s w	do
4	64	29,65	w	do	57	29,65	s w	do
5	56	29,50	s w	fair 3-10	53	29,40	w	do
6	56	29,30	w	cl'y 2-10	38	29,40	N w	do
7	28	29,55	N w	do 1-10	31	29,40	w	fair
8	36	29,30	s w	do	30	29,10	w	do
9	38	28,95		do	34	29,90	w	do
10	24	29,05	w	cloudy	10	29,30	s w	cloudy
11	10	29,45	w	do sn 1 in	14	29,35	s w	do‡
12	18	29,50	s w	fair	20	29,50	s w	do
13	28	29,35	s w	cloudy	30	29 25	s w	do
14	22	29,40	N	lr sn ½ in	19	29,60	N w	do
15	24	29,50	s	do*	32	28,95	s	do
16	32	28,75	w	cl'y sn 3in	14	29,50	N	do
17	10	29,75	w	fair	10	29,40	w	do‖
18	26	29 45	w	lo sn 2 in	14	29,80	w	fair
19	13	29,90	s E	do	32	29,55	s w	do
20	44	29,45	s w	do	44	29,35	s w	do
21	45	29,30	s w	do	39	29,30	s	cloudy
22	40	29,40	N E	do	37	29,50	s E	do
23	40	29.50	s	do	39	29 39	s w	fair
24	44	29,20	s w	do	34	29,00	E	cloudy
25	38	28,90	s E	cloudy†	23	29,10	N w	do
26	24	29,30	N w	do sn 2 in	22	29,50	w	fair
27	30	29,50	w	fair	28	29,40	s w	cloudy
28	21	29,70	N w	do	16	29,70	w	fair
29	22	29,60	w	do	34	29,35	s	cloudy
30	36	29,30	N w	cloudy	30	29,25	E	do
31	21	29,25	N E	do	18	29,50	N E	do

Mean temp. 31.4—press. 29.42—rain 1 4-10—snow 11 inches.

* Spring water 35°. † Snow 2 inches; high wind. ‡ 6° above zero, sunrise. ‖ 4° above zero, sunrise.

☞ We expressed a wish, in our last number, to have the discussion on the subject of Chess brought to a close for the present. We have, however, since received a communication from GIDEON RAMSDELL, which we consider it our duty to publish, as we shall also any replies which any of our correspondents may deem it necessary to make to any article already published.

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some knowledge of the extent to which it is carried on in several counties, I have thought proper a year since,* a request made by Mr. GRAVES of your place, to ascertain the amount of capital plodding along almost unknown. Having had

For the Genesee Farmer.

TOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mr. Editor—In order that the impression, which in these days exists in the minds of some, that horticulture and gardening is proper only for gentlemen of wealth and leisure, may be done away, and a taste for the employment be more generally diffused, I would suggest to the readers of your paper the propriety of establishing town horticultural societies. If such societies were established in every town, the subject would be brought more immediately home to the attention and consideraton of all, than through the medium of county societies, or those embracing a great extent of country. What farmer or man of moderate means might not devote, with profit and satisfaction to himself, his leisure hours to the study and practice of this delightful science?

West Mendon, Feb. 12, 1833. D.

For the Genesee Farmer.

I lately saw a notice in the Farmer that judgment was about to be rendered or recorded against *those* who entertain the idea that wheat will turn to chess; to which I shall demur, and insist on a jury composed of farmers, who shall hear and determine on such facts as shall come before them in sixth month next, at a time when our wheat growing community will be able to produce such evidence of stubborn facts as will bear down all opposition; and I doubt not, if the winter should be unfavorable for wheat, one half of my opponents will turn to chess by next spring, or embrace sound principles founded on facts. If your cause demands so hasty a judgment, it must be in a very bad condition.

I am in no hurry—do not intend writing oftener than once in three months, for the purpose of keeping the subject alive till harvest time. My long silence on the subject of chess may be considered by some as a retreat from the field; but my colors are nailed to the mast, and the campaign not as yet half out. I only ask a reasonable time to prove all that I have asserted in support of raising chess from wheat in my own way, and by my own experiments, strengthened and supported by many others who have only retired for winter quarters, and not at all disposed to desert the cause, or give up the ship. So long as every farmer who grows wheat grows the wheat chess, and he who grows rye raises the rye chess, and they who grow flax grow the flax chess likewise; and those three kinds of chess are dissimilar in their appearance and nature also; the chess when growing with wheat will imitate the wheat, when growing with rye it imitates the rye, and if found among the flax it resembles the flax. Why does it not appear in uniformity like other grain, if its seed is, in itself, after its kind, based on some foundation of its own? Why does it borrow all its appearance and texture from the company it keeps, if its own company were good? That which does not exist only in imitation, its originality is to be doubted.

Thus we observe chess growing among all our winter grains, but does not flourish with spring crops of wheat and oats. But for the satisfaction of my opponents, who are slow to believe and hard to understand, (and not being willing to be convinced of plain stubborn facts, and disposed to run over every thing moon-blind,) I have sowed a considerable quantity of wheat, rightly prepared to bring forth chess by wholesale and retail; and any man who "walks out into the field with his staff," may easily observe a material difference between chess and wheat in the fall of the year: one is smooth and wirey, the other flat and rough; one assumes a straight erect position, the other an oblique one, with a winding twist; and yet both the production of wheat—one in its original purity, the other having lost its savor in its fallen degenerate state, entirely destitute of any provision for its restoration, amounting to nearly a blank in creation. One of my neighbors* has taken the pains to pick over with his fingers, and select carefully, kernel by kernel, one half bushel of wheat, and which has been sown on newly cleared and well burnt ground, where Adam never ploughed, or his posterity ever sowed or reaped; yet the appearance of chess was manifest to any critical observer before it was covered with snow.

I shall relate one fact more, as communicated to me by Dr. D. A. Robinson, who is well known as a scientific man, besides a practical farmer of good observation. To satisfy his own curiosity, when walking through a piece of wheat, endeavoring to make what discoveries he was capable of, he had the satisfaction to find an ear composed of wheat and chess together, firmly united in the same head, so that no critic could separate them. Good fair wheat associated with chess! completely Jew and Ashdod joined together. Practice is better than theory; and experiments, well tested, ought to be relied on more than pigeon stories.

I could enumerate abundance of evidence in favor of my position being founded on incontestible proof, from those who have seen, known, and have capacity to understand, that there are phenomena in the animal world, and likewise in the vegetable kingdom, notwithstanding the opinion of a long list of botanical men to the contrary.

I am firm in the opinion, that when the pure enlivening principle or spirit, which is the essence of wheat, by any means whatever ceases to exist, vegetable life will go on, and a spurious production will be brought forth. Thus we see different portions of the same field entirely chess, while other parts produce an uncommon fine crop of good wheat; not because the field was unequally sown, but location, and the operation of natural causes, make the difference—(the wheat changed.)

Many things are mysterious to us, which we are bound to believe, as much as the illiterate mariner, who is satisfied by experience that his needle points north and south, though he knows not why, nor can give any reason for its not settling east and west with the same propriety.

Likewise, last season I planted a piece of corn upon wheat stubble; when I was hoeing it the third time, I observed several chess roots, in an oblong form, which I examined, and found the old wheat head, in perfect shape, attached to the chess roots. *Those* wheat heads, I presume to say, were exposed in the open air from the time of harvest until covered with the plough last spring. During all this time the vegetable life remained, although the spirit and essential nutriment of the wheat was extracted by the atmosphere.

It is said chess flourishes much the best in low wet ground. I believe it to be true, for there the wheat perishes in such a manner as to leave nothing but chess.

In writing upon this subject, I have not, neither shall I, review the abundance that has been written by the many against the few. I have not a whit the less opinion of any man because he dissents from my arguments. It is his privilege to bring forth his strong reasoning in support of his cause, good or bad. I do not write for applause, or to be a scribbler in the Farmer. I write for the sake of throwing information upon the farming community, exhibiting such facts as have come within my observation, and others on whom I can depend for knowledge and stability.

Before I close this communication, I shall relate one fact more. A neighbor, with whom I am well acquainted, stated, that when his wheat was nearly eight or ten inches high, he tied his horse to a bar post on the outside of the lot, but accidentally the horse let down the top bar, and jumped over into the wheat, and fed off the wheat close to the ground the length of his rope, being about ten feet round. At harvest time, just so far, and no farther than the horse fed, the ground was completely wrapped in a blanket of chess. I have known several instances of farmers who have turned in their catttle upon wheat as late as the latter part of the fifth month, because they apprehended their wheat was too large, and would lodge down, if not prevented by feeding; and, according to my best judgment, they always diminished their crop of wheat, and increased the growth of chess from the stools which were fed close to the ground. From the above I infer that, after the root has sent forth as many shoots as would produce heads of wheat, if by any circumstance these are taken off close to the ground, the next in succession from the root will be chess.

Therefore, I shall conclude this time by giving it as my decided opinion, that chess is produced from wheat in no less than four different ways, that is, by sowing seed from the outside of bundles which have stood a long time in the field through wet and dry; by sowing in a very dry time, when much of the wheat does not come up in three or four weeks; by what is generally termed winter killed, where the whole top dies above ground, yet life enough is preserved in the roots to vegetate and bring forth chess; and by feeding after every ear that would come to maturity is taken off by the scythe or cattle.

Finally, all that has been written against the argument of wheat turning to chess cannot overturn one fact. Point-no-point has been run round long enough. Facts are wanted, and facts you shall have, sufficient to convince all the wise men of the east and the west. Many experiments are in operation. Farmers will not doubt the origin of chess after this year. The wallet will be turned about—the boot put upon the other leg—and judgment rendered without mercy.

GIDEON RAMSDELL.

Perrinton, 1 *mo.* 1833.

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* Ambrose Burr.

☞ A two story dwelling house and a wheelwright shop, in Greenbush, were totally destroyed by fire, on Friday evening.

For the Genesee Farmer.

PRUNING.

I have had some experience in trimming fruit trees; but it is not improbable that I may yet profitably learn new methods in this business. In cutting off limbs of an inch or more in diameter, I have more commonly had paint or some composition applied to the stumps, and I think with decided advantage. Paint is not so durable as tar boiled with brick dust, or as the indurated tar and grease from the hubs or axles of a wagon; but we have used it more frequently because it was more conveniently obtained. As large stumps must remain exposed for several years before they can be covered by the new wood, they should not be forgotten, but new coatings after the lapse of two or three seasons, should be successively applied.

The importance of this operation, increases with the size of the limb removed; and also with its position on the tree. I know not how we can prevent the trunk of an apple tree from becoming hollow, when a large branch is cut off at the fork, unless we apply an artificial covering to the part. I am aware that trees properly trimmed when young, will not require such excisions; but I am also convinced that among the neglected trees of common orchards, such cases frequently occur.

I have examined several apple trees to-day, from which large limbs had been taken. The painted or covered stumps are uniformly sound, while such as have been been neglected, are more or less decayed, according to situation; and may hereafter accommodate the wren, or the blue-bird, with a hole for his nest.

In regard to the season for trimming, I am rather partial to the winter, or indeed to any time when the sap does not flow. The stump being comparatively dry, especially if we defer the coating for a few days, I have believed it in a better condition to receive the paint, than when the buds are just opening into leaf. The argument that the new wood immediately begins to cover up the wound, I think possesses but little weight. D. T.

Greatfield, 1 mo. 21, 1833.

For the Genesee Farmer.

WATERS OF WESTERN NEW-YORK.

After many years diligent inquiry and observation, I shall venture to make the following remark: From Oneida county, westward, as far as Genesee River, all the streams which run northwardly into the Mohawk River, or Lake Ontario, except the outlets of the lakes, are composed of *hard water*, or water in which earthy substances are suspended; and all the streams which flow southwardly into the Susquehannah, are composed of soft water. This is the case, although the streams interlock each other, for many miles. For instance, the southern inlet of the Crooked Lake, which heads near Bath, is hard, while the Five Mile Creek, which heads twenty miles further north, is soft. In the town of Prattsburgh are many streams running both ways. The streams running northwardly, and the springs from which they originate, are invariably hard, while all the streams which run southwardly, though perhaps on the same farm, are soft.

R. PORTER.

Prattsburgh, January 25, 1833.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Suggestions to Agricultural Societies.

Mr. Editor—Permit me, through the medium of the Genesee Farmer, to call the attention of the farmers of our state to the consideration of a subject, which I wish them to view in the same light that I do.

Within the past twelve months, a new impulse seems to have been given to the cause of agriculture. Reflecting men, who appreciate the value of successful agriculture, wish that it may meet with the encouragement it deserves.

No one will, I presume, attempt to dislodge me from the position that, in order to disseminate intelligence, the means must be furnished. Therefore, that the great mass of the farming community may be instructed in their business, it will become requisite that a source and channel of that particular kind of information which they need should be furnished.

I am aware that strong prejudices exist in the minds of a large majority of farmers, against any thing like "book knowledge;" hence the great difficulty of enlightening them. Where such prejudices have found footing, it is apparent that, in order to benefit the subject of our exertions, some way must be provided to eradicate them. How shall this be done? Surely not by argument; for argument, however lucid and cogent it may be, rarely produces conviction in a prejudiced mind. It strikes my mind that there is a way, and that now is the time, to break down, in very many instances, the most obstinate prejudice. And the way is simply this: Let those agricultural societies which are already formed, as well as those which may be created hereafter, make it a point of duty and policy, to give a large proportion of their premiums in the shape of agricultural journals. In this way, thousands of these vehicles of useful intelligence will be forced, as it were, upon the notice of farmers, who would otherwise have remained ignorant, not only of their merits, but even of their existence; and I venture to predict, that many of the whole number who have thus been introduced to an agricultural periodical, will lose their prejudice, appreciate, and continue to take, read, and be benefited by it. No one, I am persuaded, can duly estimate the vast amount of good that might thus be done. Let the agricultural societies of the state of New-York emulate, in this instance, the example set them by their sister societies of New-England.

Let our farmers but be enlightened, and we have the certain consequence of improved farms, increased wealth, and more useful citizens. When I sit down at evening to enjoy the pages of the Genesee Farmer, I do most sincerely pity those who voluntarily deprive themselves of the same enjoyment, who, when they have finished their day's labor in the natural, will do nothing in the evening to cultivate the intellectual field. But I am wandering from my subject, and encroaching too much upon the pages of your paper. I will therefore cease to dwell longer on the farmer's wants and pleasures, with the request that the plan proposed above may be considered by the officers of agricultural societies, and be practiced by them if thought expedient.

Respectfully, &c. W. P. W.

Milton, Jan. 15, 1833.

For the Genesee Farmer.

AQUATIC PLANTS.

For the benefit of such horticulturists as have in their gardens a *small* but *durable* stream, I copy the following paragraphs from the letter of a botanical friend, which I received a few months ago. Many of our sub-aquatic plants are of great beauty; and some of them will grow in a prepared soil remote from water; but others like true aquatics, can only be successfully cultivated where there is a perennial fountain to supply their wants.

"I lately saw the *Sarracenia purpurea* growing very finely in a garden. It was taken from a swamp, and planted in a moist soil close to a small but constant stream. I mention it, because it is sure to dwindle and perish in common earth.

"Oh! I have seen the *Cyamus luteus* in flower. It is really one of the finest plants I ever saw: the flowers are from three to five inches in diameter, and if they were opened out, would measure seven or eight inches across. When fresh, their fragrance to me is very grateful. It should be cultivated wherever it can be got to grow; it requires a small pond of water two or three feet deep with a muddy bottom.

"There is in this neighborhood a *Sagittaria* with double flowers that is said to be splendid, but I have not yet seen it.———P. S. A friend has just handed me a bunch of the double *Sagittaria*, and it is a curiosity worth trying to get."

There are many subscribers to the Genesee Farmer, horticulturists, who have, or who may have, fountains or durable streams in their gardens; and who at a very moderate expense could prepare an exhibition worth a day's journey to see. Only to think of an *aquarium* which should include the water-loving plants of the Genesee Country alone. The white and fragrant pond lily in the center—the blue-flowered *Pontederia* with its fine foliage near the shore—the silvery spikes of the *Menyanthes* on the margin—the tall and elegant *Cypripedium* on the wet soil, shading the water-cups of the *Sarracenia*—and admitting along side the more brilliant *Calopogon*—the fringed *Orchis*—the fragrant *Pogonia*—and the fine purple of the leafless *Arethusa*. Not far from these, the hooded *Utricularias* with their golden blossoms might intermix with the rosy spikes of the amphibious *Polygonum*—and later—in Autumn—the striped flowers of the delicate Parnassia with the dewy purple of the *Gerardia*. A few bunches of the wild rice (two kinds) would make a noble display. Even in the edge of winter, the red fruit of the cranberry, projecting from the spongy moss, would be brightly reflected from the water; and the *Prinos*, though leafless at that dreary season, would glitter in the most brilliant scarlet.

Twice as many more might be named, and congregated with representatives from other parts of the temperate zone. The rosy flowers of the Chinese sacred bean (*Cyamus*) would be glorious among the yellow of our native species; and the superb lily, only rising in full vigor from a wet and fertile soil, might be seen eight or ten feet in height, crowned with fifty blossoms. ‡

Three fourths of the books printed do not pay their expenses; and not one in ten realize a profit.

For the Genesee Farmer.

FEEDING CALVES.

On a late visit to one of my friends in Farmington, Ontario county, who, by the by, I consider one of the best farmers in that section of our country, and who has eighteen of the finest calves, (with one exception,) that I have seen, all of the Short Horned Durham and Devonshire breeds. His mode of feeding them is the following, which I think worthy of imitation: He takes a plank of oak, three inches in thickness, and twelve feet long, and two feet wide. On either side of this plank, and about one inch from the outer edge of it, holes are bored in a slanting direction inwards towards the middle of the bottom of it, quite through it. These holes are five inches apart, from center to center, and are made with an inch and a quarter augur. In these holes are placed sticks, of the same size of the holes, and three feet six inches long. The upper end of these sticks are secured in a plank one and a half inch thick, and five inches wide, of the same length of the bottom, with holes of a similar size. On these, rafters are placed, and the whole is covered with common siding, cut so long as to project on either side a sufficient distance to cover the trough underneath, in which the grain or meal with which they are fed is to be placed. The ends are secured by sliding doors, made of light boards. This is supported by four legs of such a length as will raise the rack two and a half feet from the ground, and diverging outward so as to prevent its blowing over. The lower end of these legs are framed into two pieces of four by four scantling, with a piece pinned on across one or both ends, for the purpose of attaching a horse or oxen to it, when it may be necessary or convenient to move it to some other place. Attached to the legs is the trough for catching the litter that would otherwise fall on the ground, and be trodden under foot, while the animals were feeding from the rack, and also for feeding them with grain or meal. This is constructed of boards, and sufficiently high to prevent swine from reaching it.

The whole expense of such a rack will not exceed from three to four dollars, and will amply repay the expense the first winter or season of foddering, and will answer for twenty or twenty-five calves to feed at. Twenty can feed at it at one time. This will also answer a valuable purpose for feeding oxen in the spring, as by this means they *waste no hay*, or meal, or grain, if fed with it; but can be placed in a shade, in the open air, which is of great consequence in warm *faint* days in the spring.

N. B. The sides of the trough for feeding meal or grain, should be placed at an angle of about 45 degrees with the bottom, so as the more readily to catch all the hay which may litter down during the animal's feeding.

J. W. SMITH.

Lockport, 1 *mo.* 12, 1833.

It has been computed that nearly two years of sickness is experienced by every person before he is 70 years old, and that therefore but ten days per annum is the average sickness of human life. Till forty it is but half, and after fifty it rapidly increases.

The sense of feeling is created by the papilae of the skin, consisting of small white nervous fibres, which erect themselves when the sense of touch is excited.

For the Genesee Farmer.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.

A correspondent has proposed the following problem in Vegetable Physiology: "Let a tree be felled in the winter, and cut into saw-logs—if these are raised up so as not to touch the ground, the sap will flow so freely as to loosen the bark at the usual time in spring. How is this explained? Whence comes the sap? or what sap vessels conveyed it in a transverse direction to the fibres of the wood? To me, this has appeared inexplicable, but I have often witnessed the fact."

There is a disparity in the constitutions of different trees, of which Phytologists seem not sufficiently to have taken notice. The flowing of the sap in spring, is a circumstance common to all, but how different in the birch and in the maple! The latter in its leafless state appears always to abound with sap, frozen or unfrozen; but the alternate freezing and thawing, so necessary to the success of our sugar makers, make no sensible impression on the birch. It commences flowing when the orifice in the maple is dry; and instead of the dripping of the latter, it seems to have converted all its sap-vessels into conduits from some adjacent reservoir.

The sap vessels of other trees besides the maple, *may* be always supplied with that fluid in winter; and such trunks, though separated from their roots, will retain vitality enough for one effort towards vegetation. The sap will move towards the upper end, but here the vessels are dried, and its further progress resisted. It now takes the direction of the *divergent layers* called the *silver grain*,—"so numerous in the maple and so large in the oak,"* —and passing through the cells which "extend in series from the center to the circumference of the wood,"† and which communicate with each other by pores, it loosens the bark from the alburnum in the same manner as if it had descended from the leaves of the elaboration.

A PRACTICAL GARDENER.

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* Sumner's Compendium, p. 64.

† Nuttall's Introduction, p. 264.

For the Genesee Farmer.

SHEEP AND CALVES.

MR. EDITOR—Having last summer made some statements respecting the keeping of sheep on green oats, which were published in your paper, I think I promised to say something more on the subject. If you think the following remarks worth the trouble, you are at liberty to publish them in the Genesee Farmer.

Having ascertained that in the wool-growing districts of Europe the expense of keeping sheep through the winter is, (compared to ours,) a mere trifle, and that they keep them on green food, such as turneps, &c., which enables them to compete with us in the article, notwithstanding the duty which our government has laid on imported wool, if some of your correspondents would give a detail of the European method of growing wool, I think it would be acceptable to many of your patrons. My observation for several years has convinced me that there is a great defect in the mode of keeping sheep in our country. I have observed that, in hard winters, from twelve to twenty-five per cent of the sheep are lost. Is it for the want of food? I think not; but for the want of the right kind of food, and foddering so that all can get their proportion before it is trod over. I have observed that sheep, like some avaricious people, the moment a chance offers, will run full drive, and what they cannot hastily consume will tread under foot, and leave rather than let their more moderate neighbors have the first cut.

I told you in my former communication that I had sowed one acre of oats on the 20th of June last for my sheep. They came up well, and produced an excellent crop, but rather late. I received a good many dry slants on the subject of my green oats; and in fact my faith was a little startled; but the frost held off, and my oats became pretty well filled, and we went at them with our sickles, as they were so stout that we could not cut them any other way. Well, sir, we cut and bound up in small sheaves, and set eight in a round shock, and bound the ninth round near the but, and put that on for a cap. *Some sneering among the reapers*, but I followed and bound, and they cut, and I think with four good hands they might have been cut and put up in one day. We had near two thousand sheaves. We let them stand in that condition near three weeks, and then put them in three several mows, not to have them too thick, and I am now feeding forty sheep on them, to which I give, on an average, eight sheaves per day, (the sheaves about half the size of corn sheaves,) and they appear to do extraordinary well. I feed to four calves two sheaves per day; they are, in digesture, almost as loose as on pasture; and I feed two sheaves per day to two colts; the calves and colts I feed hay besides; and at that rate I had enough off my acre to keep the above stock five months.

The satisfaction of feeding them is like charity—it has its reward with the giving. You would be pleased to witness with what voracity they devour the green stocks. They generally eat it all clean, stocks and all. I found that the large sheep took more than their share, and I have separated the lambs and small sheep from the rest, and made the number equal in each lot.

Now for the estimate:

Three days ploughing, for I ploughed it three times well,	$3,00
Three bushels of oats, at 3s. per bushel,	1,12½
One days harrowing, for I harrowed it thoroughly,	1,00
Four days reaping, late in fall, at 50 cents per day,	2,00
Setting up, &c.,	1,00
Drawing,	1,00
The use of land,	3,00
	$12,12

The 40 sheep will eat 1200 sheaves, equal to 600 good sheaves, if ripe, say 10 bushels to the hundred at most—60 bushels oats, and the straw.

Thus, Mr. Editor, my sheep are fed, and no appearance of rot, red-water, worm, hump-back, or snotty noses; and I have no fears that it will be the case, if I could attend to them myself, but my business will soon lead me from home; and if my trusty boy should neglect them, and I should lose one or two, it would be bad enough, as my doubting neighbors would have somewhat to turn up their noses at.

Truly yours, &c. T. H.

Cayuga co., Jan. 8, 1833.

The fluids of animals contain alkalies, especially soda.

CULTURE OF HOPS.

One of our subscribers having requested us to publish some directions for the culture of hops, we copy the following from the Northern Farmer, an agricultural paper, published at Newport, New Hampshire. Should the following directions be found insufficient, if our friend will point out the deficiency to us, we will explain any part of the process to his satisfaction. It may be well here to mention to our readers, that there has been an increased demand for the article this season, in consequence of many of the hop growers in the eastern counties having ploughed up their yards, the prices for several seasons past not having been such as to warrant their cultivation. Those farmers in this neighborhood who have hops unsold would do well to consult this market before sending them east, as a few tons are much wanted for the neighboring breweries.

We have in a former number of the Farmer, presented some considerations in favor of a more extended culture of the hop; and, as the great profits realized by the cultivator, on this article, the present season, is presumed to have invested the subject with an interest, sufficient to induce the intelligent agriculturist to examine whether it may not with profit, be made a more general subject of field culture, we have again presented the subject to our readers; presuming that a brief botanical description of this plant, a few facts in relation to its history, and a more particular account of the best mode of cultivating it, would not be unacceptable at this time.

Botanical Description.—"HUMULUS, *the hop*, a genus of the petandria order, in the dicœcia class of plants, and in the natural method ranking under the 53d order, scadridæ. The male calyx is pentaphyllous; there is no corolla; the female calyx is monophyllous, patent obliquely, and entire; there is no corolla, but two styles, and one seed within the calyx, the latter consisting of one large leaf. There is only one species, viz: the lupulus, which is sometimes found wild in the hedges near houses and gardens, but probably is not indigenous," [in Britain.] "The stalk is weak and climbing: it creeps up the support in a spiral, ascending always from the right hand to the left.

History.—Hops are said to have been first brought into England from the Netherlands, in the year 1524. They are first mentioned in the English statute-book, in the year 1552; and by a statute of the first year of James I, anno 1603, it appears that hops were then produced in abundance in England. "The hop being a plant of great importance, we shall," says an English writer, "consider what relates to the culture and management of it under distinct heads.

Of Soil.—"As for the choice of soil, the hop-planters esteem the richest and strongest ground the most proper; and if it is rocky, within two or three feet of the surface, the hops will prosper well; but they will by no means thrive on a stiff clay or spongy wet land.

To Plant Hops.—"In the winter time, provide your manure for the hop ground against the following spring. If the dung is rotten, mix it with two or three parts of common earth, and let it incorporate together till you have occasion to make use of it in making your hop-hills; but if it is new dung, then it is to be mixed as before till the spring in the next year; for new dung is very injurious to hops.

"Hops require to be planted in a situation so open, as that the air may freely pass round and between them, to dry up and dissipate the moisture, that they may not be so subject to fire blasts, which often destroy the middle of large plantations, while the outsides remain unhurt.

"The hills should be eight or nine feet asunder, that the air may freely pass between them. If the ground is intended to be ploughed with horses between the hills, it will be best to plant them in squares, chequerwise; but if the ground is so small that it may be best cultivated with the spade, the holes should be ranged in the quincunx form. Which way soever you make use of, a stake should be stuck down at all the places where the hills are to be made.

"Farmers should be very particular in the choice of the plants, as to the kind of hop; for if the hop-garden is planted with a mixture of several sorts of hops that ripen at several times, it will cause a great deal of trouble, and be a great detriment to the grower. The two best sorts are the white and grey bind: the latter is a large square hop, more hardy, and is the more plentiful bearer, and ripens later than the former. There is another sort of the white bind, which ripens a week or ten days before the common; but this is tenderer, and a less plentiful bearer; but it has this advantage, that it comes first to market.

"If you have a sort of hops you highly value, and would increase plants and sets from them, the superfluous binds may be laid down when the hops are tied, cutting off the tops, and burying them in the hill; or when the hops are dressed, all the cuttings may be saved; for almost every part will grow, and become a good set the next spring."

As to the seasons of planting hops, the months of October and April (May in the northern parts of New England.) are best approved of. The most usual time, however, of procuring sets, is in April or May, when the hops are cut and dressed.

"As to the manner of planting the sets—there should be five good sets planted in each hill, one in the middle, and the rest round about, sloping.

Dressing.—This operation should be performed in the spring as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, and before the stock begins to put forth branches. The most favorable time in New England for this operation is generally from the middle of April to the beginning of May. Having cleared away the earth out of the hills, so as to lay bare the stock to the principal roots, (observing great caution not to break or wound the roots) with a sharp knife, cut off all the shoots which grew up with the bind the last year; "and also all the young suckers, (if any have already started,) that none be left to run in the alley and weaken the hill. It will be proper to cut one part of the stock lower than the other, and to cut that part low that was left highest the preceding year. In dressing hops that were planted the year before, you ought to cut off both the dead tops and the young suckers which have sprung up from the sets, and also to cover the stocks with fine earth, a finger's length in thickness."

The Poling.—About the latter part of April the hops are to be poled, when the shoots begin to sprout up. The poles must be set to the hills deep in the ground, with a square iron picker or crow, that they may the better endure the winds, due caution being observed not to injure the principal roots; three poles are sufficient for one hill. These should be placed as near the hill as may be, without injury to the roots, with their bending tops turned outward from a perpendicular position, to prevent the binds from entangling; and a space between two poles ought to be left open to the south, to admit the sun-beams.

The Tying.—"As to the tying of hops, the binds that do not clasp of themselves to the nearest pole, when they are grown to three or four feet in length, must be guided to it by the hand, turning them to the sun, whose course they will always follow." They must be bound with withered rushes, but not so close as to injure them by the tightness of the ligature. This you must continue to do till all the poles are furnished with binds, of which two or three are enough for a pole; and all the sprouts and binds that you have no occasion for, are to be plucked up; but if the plantation is young, then none of these useless binds should be plucked up, but should be wrapped up together in the middle of the hill.

Gathering.—"About the beginning of July, hops begin to blow, and will be ready to gather about Bartholomew-tide, (24th August.) A judgment may be formed of their ripeness by their strong scent, their hardness, and the brownish color of their seed. When by these tokens they appear to be ripe, they must be picked with all the expedition practicable; for if at this time a storm of wind should come, it would do them great damage, by breaking the branches, and bruising and discoloring the hops; and it is very well known that hops being picked green and bright, will sell for a much higher price, than those which are discolored and brown.

"The most convenient way of picking them, is into a long square frame of wood called a bin, with a cloth hanging on tenter-hooks within it, to receive the hops as they are picked.

"The hops must be picked very clean, *i. e.* free from leaves and stalks; and, as there shall be occasion, two or three times a day the bin must be emptied into a hop-bag made of coarse linen or hempen cloth, and carried immediately to the oast or kiln in order to be dried; for if they should remain long in the bin or bag, they will be apt to heat and be discolored. If the weather is hot, there should no more poles be drawn at a time than can be picked in an hour, and they should be gathered in fair weather, if it can be, and when the hops are dry; this will save some expense in firing, and preserve their color better when dried.

Drying.—"The best method of drying hops is with charcoal, on an oast or kiln, covered with hair-cloth; of the same form and fashion that is used for drying malt. There is no need to give any particular direction for making these, since every bricklayer in those countries where hops grow know how to build them. The kiln ought to be square, and may be ten, twelve, fourteen or sixteen feet over at the top, where the hops are laid, as your plantation requires, and your room will allow. There ought to be a due proportion between the height and breadth of the kiln and the beguels of the steddle where the fire is kept; viz: if the kiln is twelve feet square on the top, it ought to be nine feet high from the fire, and the steddle ought to be six feet and a half square, and so proportionate in other dimensions.

"The hops must be spread even upon the oast, a foot thick or more, if the depth of the curb will allow it; but care is to be taken not to overload the oast, if the hops are green or wet. The oast ought to be first warmed with a fire before the hops are laid on, and then an even steady fire must be kept under them; it must not be too fierce at first, lest it scorch the hops, nor must it be suffered to sink or slacken, but rather be increased till the hops are nearly dried, lest the moisture or sweat which the fire has raised, fall back and discolor them. When they have lain about nine hours, they must be turned, and in two or three hours more, they may be taken off the oast. It may be known when they are well dried, by the brittleness of the stalks, and the easy falling off of the hop leaves.

Bagging.—"As soon as the hops are taken off the kiln, lay them in a room for three weeks or a month, to cool, give and toughen; for if they are bagged immediately, they will powder, but if they lie a while (and the longer they lie the better, provided they are covered close with blankets to secure them from the air,) they may be bagged with more safety, as not being liable to be broken to powder in treading; and this will make them bear treading the better; and the harder they are trodden the better they will keep.

Medical Prize Questions of the State Medical Society, for 1833.—1. The Medical History of Cholera Morbus, previous to the appearance of Asiatic Cholera, to be drawn from authentic writers and actual observation.

2. The influence of Malaria or Marsh effluvia in the production of disease, with the circumstances under which it acts most virulently.

A premium of fifty dollars is offered for the best dissertation on either of the above subjects. The dissertations are to be forwarded to the secretary, Dr. Joel A. Wing, Albany, on or before the 1st of November, 1833.

☞ A Temperance Society has been formed in the Duchy of Saxe Weimar, under the patronage of the Grand Duke. This is the first Temperance Society organized in Germany.

From the American Farmer

MANURE,

Common stable manure is composed of fertilizing salts and vegetable fibre. It is not necessary to particularize the different elements of these salts; for our present purpose it is sufficient to say, that they are the food of the plants—in other words, to them is owing the richness of the soil which has been manured, and that they are soluble in water, and volatile. For instance, if a quantity of stable manure be placed in a leach, and water passed through it in the manner of obtaining ley from ashes, all of the fertilizing matter of the manure will be dissolved by the water, and pass off with it into the receiver. This ley thrown upon the soil with a watering pot will enrich it just as much as if the manure itself were spread upon it. It is true, the vegetable fibre of the manure, which is neither more nor less than the woody fibre of the hay, straw, skin of grain, &c. of which the food of the animals was composed, does act beneficially in the soil in two ways. It loosens stiff soils, and by its gradual decomposition adds to all soils a quantity of vegetable matter, but this is comparatively of much less importance than the fertilizing salts Sir Humphrey Davy, after very careful experiments on this subject, concludes that the fertilizing matter of manure is mostly dissipated by fermentation. He collected the vapor evolved from a mass of fermenting horse dung, condensed it into a liquid, and applied it to a grass plot, and found it to produce all of the fertilizing effects of the manure. Now if the above be a correct view of the nature of stable manure, and for ourselves we have not the slightest doubt of it, as it is the result of our experience, as well as of our reasoning, it is perfectly obvious, that the common practice of allowing stable manure to lie in large heaps to ferment—to *rot*, as it is commonly called—is very bad economy; much of its valuable properties is lost by evaporation. Of this any person may satisfy himself by standing near a pile of hot stable manure a minute or two—if he *smells* it he may be sure that a part of its substance is wasting in the air—the peculiar odor thus smelt, is nothing more nor less than the fertilizing salts of the manure flying off.

Therefore, stable manure should be kept in vaults, under barns, or in pits under sheds, or covered with a coat of soil to absorb the salts, or spread and ploughed in before a high degree of fermentation takes place.

We are aware that many suppose it necessary to let the manure *rot* for the purpose of decomposing the large quantity of straw, and other vegetable matter, mixed in the manure by "littering" the horses But they may be assured they lose more by the evaporation of fertilizing salts, than they gain by the vegetable matter obtained from the decomposed straw and other litter.

But the worst mismanagement of manure, and that which is by far the most general, is the exposure of it to washing rains. It is a matter of every day's observation to the writer to see our market gardeners carting out stable manure to the skirts of the city and dropping it on vacant lots—there letting it lie for weeks. We have seen rivulets of black liquid running down the gutters from these piles of manure—bearing off the very matter which the industrious gardener had worked so hard to collect, and paid so much to obtain, and leaving him nothing but the bleached remains. Would any man leave his salt or his sugar exposed to a shower of rain? Why not? Because it would be dissolved, and thus lost! Then why expose his pile of manure to the same casualty? It is of the same nature; and is it not of equal value? Farmers almost universally throw their manure out of the stable through a convenient window. There it lies in a pile against the side of the stable, till wanted to spread on the ground. Every rain washes all the salts down the hill, or into the neighboring soil where they are not wanted, being already too rich by previous washing for any thing to grow on them. Now this should not be. There should be a cellar either under the stable, or outside of it under a close shed, into which the manure should be thrown, and into which all the urine should be conducted by proper drains. Thus would all the manure be saved, and thus every farmer would be able to cart out three loads of real manure, for one under the old system.

SINGULAR PHYSIOLOGICAL CASE.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton.—There is at this time in our city a case of extraordinary interest to the physiologist, under the care of Dr. Beaumont.—Several years ago, the subject of the case, a Canadian, had his stomach laid open by a musket shot, and several of his ribs seriously injured, so that portions of them were removed. He ultimately recovered excepting that a small aperture was left communicating with the stomach, and around which the divided edges of the stomach formed an adhesion. This novel, we say singular case, affords opportunities which have never occurred before,* of making many experiments of signal utility to mankind, and the physiologist in particular. Through the aperture substances of different kinds and natures can be introduced, so as to test their comparative digestibility, and the gastric juice can be procured in quantities sufficient for artificial digestions. Already we are informed, experiments instituted by Professor Dunglison, of the University of Virginia, who is so eminently distinguished as a physiological chemist, and by Dr. Beaumont, to whose skill and attention the individual is indebted for the comparatively good health he now enjoys, have terminated in establishing beyond question many disputed points connected with digestion, the existence and properties of the gastic fluid, &c.; and other experiments that are in progress bid fair to realize important results.

Washington City, January 23, 1833.

* The correspondent of Messrs. Gales and Seaton is mistaken here, as more than one case is on record.

MECHANICS.—Although the mechanics may be deprived of the advantages of a liberal education, they still have no excuses for not being well educated in those branches of knowledge which are most useful to citizens in the present state of our country. The streams of information are flowing to us in every direction. The great engine of knowledge, the Press, is free, unshackled, sending upon all the beams of literature, science, and the arts. So generally and extensive is the diffusion of knowledge, through the medium of the press, that no mind which is not impervious to the reception of knowledge, can remain unaffected by its influence. The cheapness which attends the procuring of books at the present day, puts it within the means of the poorest classes to supply themselves with these fountains. Reading is the great inlet to knowledge. By this we have brought before us the learning of those whose lives were spent in research. By books we can draw around us the vast fields of knowledge which have been sown and cultivated by the great and learned of all ages and all nations and there we can gather a plentiful harvest of knowledge, and treasure up in the garners of the mind that useful information which is the life-blood of a refined society.—*Middlesex Telegraph.*

A PARAGRAPH FOR THE LADIES.—Dr. Mussey states that greater numbers annually die among the female sex by the use of the corsets, than are destroyed among the other sex by the use of spirituous liquors in the same time! It has been estimated that more than 50 thousand men die in the United States every year in consequence of the immoderate use of ardent spirits. For fear of being accused of exaggerating upon this fearful subject, let it be stated the 30,000 females die in this country every year in consequence of wearing corsets. This is doubtless below the number which should be set down; but it makes enough to excite the attention of every head of the famity and of every well wisher of the human race.—Thirty thousand per year makes eighty four for every day in the year, sacrificed at the cruel altar of fashion.—This we venture to say is a sacrifice of life which knows no parallel.—*State Herald.*

THE GENESEE FARMER

AND GARDENER'S JOURNAL.

A weekly Agricultural Paper, published in Rochester, (N. Y.) by LUTHER TUCKER & Co.

THE FARMER is printed in quarto form, suitable for binding, on fine paper and fair type, making an annual volume, with Title Page and Index, of 424 pages, at the low price of $2 50 per annum, or $2 00 if paid in advance. No subscription will be received for a less term than six months, and all subscribers must commence with the volume, Jan. 1, or the half volume, July 1.

☞ The third volume was commenced, Jan. 5, 1833.

☞ The first and second volumes can be supplied to new subscribers.

Rochester Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store.

THE subscriber will open soon an extensive assortment of *GARDEN, FIELD and FLOWER SEEDS* of the latest importation, which he will sell, wholesale or retail, as cheap as can be purchased at any similar establishment in the country. As all Seeds sold by the subscriber will be packed under his inspection, persons purchasing may rely upon them as being correct.—Also 50,000 cultivated *FRUIT TREES* of large size, *Grape Vines, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs*, among which are 150 varieties of Roses, Bulbous Roots, Strawberry Vines, &c., together with Garden and Farming Tools, Flower Pots, Hyacinth Glasses, Crocus Pots, &c.

☞ Cash paid for all kinds of Grass Seeds.

N. B. As a catalogue of the above establishment will be ready for delivery soon, a particular enumeration at this time is thought unnecessary.

jan 5 N. GOODSELL.

GRASS SEED.

CASH paid for Grass Seed, at my store.

Rochester, sept 19–f6m A. CHAPIN.

FOR SALE,

BY the subscriber in Macedon, Wayne co., 50,000 *White Mulberry Trees.*

WM. P. RICHARDSON.

oct 6-ftf

Fresh Garden Seeds.

THE subscribers respectfully inform the public that they have entered into partnership in the seed business, and they assure the public that nothing shall be wanting on their part to give the utmost satisfaction to those who may favor them with their patronage. It is the intention of the subscribers to erect an elegant Greenhouse in connection with this establishment, where a choice collection of new, rare, and beautiful flowering plants will be supplied from the New-York Botanic Garden upper end of Broadway; and also from the same establishment the best sorts of Flowering shrubs, Garden roses, Hardy perennial plants, Double Dahlias, Chinese Pœonias, Grape Vines, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, Trees for the streets, &c. &c. They have just received from London, a large importation of garden and flower seeds the growth of 1831, such as Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brocoli, Radish, Pease, Grass Seeds, &c. &c.; and also from Glasgow, Hawthorn quicks for Hedges, Red moss, White moss, and White Provence roses. The trade supplied on the most reasonable terms, and all orders by mail or otherwise, will be punctually attended to. SMITH & HOGG,

New-York, May 1832. No. 388, Broadway.

THE WAGONER.

The following exquisite lines were composed by St. Leger L. Carter, Esq. formerly of the Senate of Virginia. The subject was suggested to his mind in the streets of Richmond, by the happy and independent bearing of a wagoner from Augusta, who drives a fine team, and is moreover an excellent model of health and contentedness.—*Staunton Spectator.*

I've often thought, if I were asked,
What lot I envied most—
What one I thought most lightly tasked,
Of man's unnumbered host,—
I'd say I'd be a mountain boy;
And drive a noble team—wo hoy!
Wo hoy! I'd cry;
And lightly fly
Into my saddle seat;
My reign I'd slack,
My whip I'd crack—
What music is so sweet?

Six blacks I'd drive of ample chest,
All carrying high the head—
All harness'd tight, and gaily drest,
In winkers tipped with red,
O yes I'd be a mountain boy,
And such a team I'd drive—wo hoy!
Wo hoy! I'd cry—
The lint would fly—
Wo hoy! Dobbin--Ball!
Their feet should ring—
And I would sing—
I'd sing my fal-de-ral!

My bells would tinkle, tingle-ling,
Beneath each bear-skin cap—
And as I saw them swing and swing,
I'd be the merriest chap;
Yes then I'd be a mountain boy,
And drive a gingling team—wo hoy!
Wo hoy, I'd cry—
My words should fly—
Each horse should prick his ear!
With tightened chain,
My lumbering wain
Would move in its career.

The golden sparks—you'd see them spring
Beneath my horse's tread;
Each tail—I'd braid it up with string
Of blue or flaunting red;
So does, you know, the mountain boy,
Who drives a dashing team—wo hoy!
Wo hoy! I'd cry—
Each horse's eye
With fire would seem to burn,
With lifted head,
And nostrils spread,
They'd seem the earth to spurn.

They'd champ the bit and fling the foam,
As they dragged on my load—
And I would think of that distant home,
And whistle on the road,
Oh, would I were a mountain boy—
I'd drive a six horse team—wo hoy;
Wo hoy! I'd cry,
Now, by yon sky,
I'd sooner drive those steeds,
Than win renown,
Or wear a crown
Won by victorious deeds:
For crowns oft press the languid head,
And health the wearer shuns—
And victory, trampling on the dead,
May do for Goths and Huns!
Seek them who will—they have no joys
For mountain-lads and wagon boys.

AN ACCOMMODATING BARBER.

Said a fop to a boy, at a barber's one day,
To make a display of his wit,
"My lad, did you e'er shave a monkey, I pray?
For you seem for nought else to be fit."
"I never did yet," said the boy, "I confess,
Shave a monkey, indeed, no, not I;
"It is out of my line; but sir, nevertheless,
If you please to set down I will try."

COST OF NEW-YORK CANALS.

Receipts and Expenditures by the Commissioners of the Canal Fund from 1817 to 1832.

A report was made to the Senate yesterday, by the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, in compliance with a resolution introduced by Mr. Van Schaick giving a statement of all the moneys received and expended by them since the organization of the board in 1817. It appears by this statement, that the sums received by the Commissioners on account of the Erie and Champlain Canals, are as follows, to wit:

Avails of loans, exclusive of premiums	$7,672,782 24
Premium on loans	223,368 76
Tolls	6,966,698 55
Vendue duty	2,843,456 34
Salt duty	1,483,686 65
Steam boat tax	73,509 99
Sales of canal fund lands	67,206 69
Interest on investments of surplus funds	248,359 98
Rent of surplus water	7,275 68
Other receipts	17,039 44
Total amount received by the commissioners of the canal fund from all sources, from 1817 to the 30th September 1832,	$19,603,381 32

The sums paid out by the commissioners are as follows, to wit:

To the canal commissioners	$9,809,304 40
Interest paid on canal debt	4,150,553 66
Paid to stockholders of W. I. Lock Navigation company	152,718 52
Paid notes given to contractors by Myron Holley, as treasurer of the canal commissioners, and for which he obtained their receipts, and a credit on his account with the state, (see chapt. 26 and 293 of the session of 1823)	17,155 91
Miscellaneous payments	84,767 29
Superintendents of repairs	1,561,004 03
For extinguishment of canal debt	750 535 13
Loaned and invested	1,687,351 30
Total amount paid out by the commissioners of the canal fund from 1817 to 30th Sept. 1832,	18,213,390 44

Deduct this from the receipts as stated above, and it leaves a balance in the hands of the commissioners, as stated in their annual report, p. 11, of $1,389,993 88

This balance is the sum remaining in the two Albany banks, and in the banks in which the tolls are deposited by the collectors. The sum under the head of "loaned and invested," (excepting therefrom $22,097 53, being the premium paid upon stock purchased) when added to the balance before referred to, makes the total amount in the hands of the commissioners applicable to the payment of the canal debt, as stated at page 11, in the annual report, $3,055,247 65. When the annual report of the commissioners was made to the legislature in 1826, embracing their transactions up to the close of December, 1825, the Erie and Champlain canals were considered as finished; and the sums expended for these canals, embracing the amount paid to the canal commissioners for their construction; the interest paid on loans; the purchase of the stock of the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company; the notes of Myron Holley, and about six thousand dollars for incidental expenses; made an aggregate expenditure for the completion of the Erie and Champlain canals, of $10,731,594 75

Since the close of the year 1823, there has been expended, for repairs and improvements of the canals, interest on the debt, &c. 8,871,798 57

Albany Argus.] $19,603,384 32

There are 7,700 veins in an inch of colored mother of pearl. Iris ornaments of all colors are made by lines of steel from 200 to the 1,000 part of an inch.

Bodies are transparent, says Newton, when the pores are so small as to prevent reflection.

WILLIAM PENN.

From the Philadelphia Protector.

Mr. Editor.---In looking over an old manuscript, I found the following *original letter of William Penn*—perhaps they may prove interesting to some of your readers. T.

TO RICHARD TURNER.

Dear Friend.---My true love in the Lord salutes *thee* and dear friends that love the Lord's precious truth in those parts. Thine I have and for my business here, know, that after many waitings, watchings, solicitatings and disputes in council, I have this day had my country confirmed to me, under the great Seal of England, with large powers and privileges, by the name of *Pennsylvania*---a name the King would give it, in honor to my father. I chose *New Wales* being as this, a pretty healthy country—but Penn being Welsh for a head, as Pennmanmorie in Wales, Penrith in Cumberland, and Penn in Buckinghamshire, the highest land in England—called this Pennsylvania, which is the high or head Woodland—for I proposed, when the Secretary (a welshman) refused to have it called Wales—*Sylvania*, and they added Penn to it, and though I was much opposed to it and went to the King to have it struck out—he said it was passed, and he would take it upon him---nor could twenty guineas move the under Secretary to vary the name—for I feared lest it should be looked upon as a vanity in *me* and not as a respect in the King (as it truly was) to my father, whom he often mentions with praise. Thou mayest communicate my grant to friends and expect my proposals—it is a clear and just thing—and my God who has given it me, through many difficulties, will I believe, bless and make it the seed of a nation. I shall have a tender care to the government, that it be well laid at first—no more now, but dear love in the truth.

Thy true friend,
5th 1st mo. 1681. W. PENN.

HABIT.

Habit to man, is what action in to oratory, the triune attribute upon which depends all success or defeat in the career of human existence. How hard to wed a good habit! how impossible to repudiate a bad one! Let none therefore do even once, what they are conscious they ought not to do at all; nor neglect even once, what a sense of duty tells them should never once be neglected.

A man may sometimes acquire a bad habit, as he catches a pestilence, without knowing it, and a pestilence it will prove to him and all with whom he is connected, unless he purify himself the moment he feels the infection. The only chance of escaping bad habits is to avoid the temptation that leads to them; for no man can hope to be able to resist, where he has a hundred times yielded—nor hope to come off at last victorious where he has a hundred times been vanquished. But who does not see and feel and acknowledge the importance and advantage of good habits? Who does not know that they are the very pivot upon which all the success and happiness of existence turns? Well was it said by the great moralist, that "*negligence and the irregularity will make knowledge useless, wit ridiculous and genius contemptable!*" Who can gainsay it? —*Bost. Statesman.*

The odorous matter of flowers is inflammable, and arises from an essential oil. When growing in the dark their odor is diminished, but restored in the light; and it is strongest in sunny climates.